AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A power supply device having several switch-mode power supplies connected in parallel to supply at least one load (32), each switch-mode power supply generating an output current I_0 and an output voltage $U_0(I_0, R_L)$ that is a function of the output current I_0 and a load resistance R_L, and having a control device for each switch-mode power supply, wherein the control device has a first stage (50) having a P element (54) that receives a P element input voltage which is derived from the output voltage $U_0(I_0, R_L)$, and generates a P element control voltage U_{VS}, that is used to control the respective switch-mode power supply, the first stage being active when $0 \leq I_0 \leq I_{0P}$,

a second stage (60) having a current imaging circuit which reproduces the output current I_0 of the respective switch-mode power supply and generates an output current control voltage Up which is used to control the respective switch-mode power supply, the second stage being active when $I_{0P} \leq I_0 \leq I_{0S}$, and

a third stage (70) having an amplifier circuit (74) which amplifies a signal proportional to the output current I_0 and generates an amplified output current control voltage $m \cdot U_S$ which is used to control the respective switch-mode power supply, the third stage being active when $I_{0S} \leq I_0 \leq I_K$,

wherein I_{0P} is a first threshold value of the output current I_0; I_{0S} is a second threshold value of the output current I_0; and I_K characterizes a short circuit current limitation.

2. (Previously presented) A power supply device according to claim 1, wherein the second stage is also active when $I_{0S} \leq I_0$.

3. (Currently amended) A power supply device according to claim 1 wherein I_{0P} is a first threshold value of the output current I_0 which characterizes the limit of a normal operating range; and I_{0S} is a second threshold value of the output current I_0 which

characterizes the limit of an operating range with a heavier load~~; and I_K characterizes a short-circuit current limitation~~.

4. (Previously presented) A power supply device according to claim 1, wherein the control device has a pulse width modulation circuit (80) which receives the P element control voltage U_{VS}, the output current control voltage Up and the amplified output current control voltage U_S and generates a control signal U_T for the respective switch-mode power supply in response thereto.

5. (Previously presented) A power supply device according to claim 4, wherein the first stage (50) has a voltage divider (51, 52, 53) that generates a P element input voltage proportional to the output voltage U_0.

6. (Previously presented) A power supply device according to claim 5, wherein the P element (54) of the first stage (50) has an operational amplifier, one of whose inputs receives the P element input voltage and whose other input receives a first reference voltage U_{REF1} and whose output emits the P element control voltage U_{VS}.

7. (Previously presented) A power supply device according to claim 6, wherein the operational amplifier (54) is connected to the pulse width modulation circuit (80) via a blocking diode (36).

8. (Previously presented) A power supply device according claim 1, wherein the second stage (60) has a transformer element (62) that is connected in parallel to the main transformer element (26) of the respective switch-mode power supply and generates an output signal that is proportional to the output current I_0 of the switch-mode power supply.

9. (Previously presented) A power supply device according to claim 8, wherein downstream from the transformer element (62), a zener diode (63) and an RC circuit (64,

65) are connected which generate the output current control voltage Up as a function of the transformer output signal when $I_0 \geq I_{0P}$, Up being proportional to I_0.

10. (Previously presented) A power supply device according to claim 1, wherein the third stage (70) is connected downstream from the second stage (60) and the output current control voltage Up, which is proportional to the output current I_0 of the switch-mode power supply, forms the input signal of the third stage (70).

11. (Previously presented) A power supply device according claim 1, wherein the third stage (70) is connected in parallel to the second stage (60) and has a further current imaging circuit which reproduces the output current I_0 of the switch-mode power supply.

12. (Previously presented) A power supply device according to claim 10 wherein the third stage (70) has an amplifier circuit (74) one of whose inputs is connected to the current imaging circuit via a further RC circuit (72, 73) and whose other input is connected to the reference voltage U_{REF3} and whose output emits the amplified output current control voltage mUs.

13. (Original) A power supply device according to claim 12, wherein the amplifier circuit (74) of the third stage (70) is designed in such a way that it has a high amplification factor $m >> 1$.

14. (Previously presented) A power supply device according to claim 11, wherein the third stage (70) has an amplifier circuit (74) one of whose inputs is connected to the current imaging circuit via a further RC circuit (72, 73) and whose other input is connected to the reference voltage U_{REF3} and whose output emits the amplified output current control voltage mUs.

15. (Previously presented) A power supply device according to claim 14, wherein the amplifier circuit (74) of the third stage (70) is designed in such a way that it has a high amplification factor m >> 1.